

COUNTRY

TOPIC: * Finsterwalde Airfield

EVALUATION

25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

15 December 1952 to 15 January 1953

DATE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE PREPARED 24 February 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

7

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. Between 15 December 1952 and 9 January 1953, the following incoming and outgoing railroad shipments were observed at Finsterwalde airfield:

25X1

25X1

Date in
December
1952

Shipments

From

To

25X1

25X1

15 1 boxcar with military goods
shipment record

Velten

19 1 boxcar with military goods

Cottbus

20 1 boxcar with military goods

Cottbus

22 1 tank car with motor oil

Velten

25X1

25X1

26 5 boxcars with materials, allegedly
ammunition boxes,Buckau, Magdeburg
district

25X1

28 5 flatcars with trunk wood

Netzebrand

Soviet Army

25X1

1 boxcar and 1 flatcar with parachutes,
boxes, oxygen flasks and 1 sedan

Cottbus

25X1

29 8 tank cars with 300, 190, 200, 265, 240,
265, 180, and 300 hectoliters of naphtha

Riesa

2 flatcars with trunk wood

Netzebrand

Soviet Army

1 flatcar with 1 tractor and

Cottbus

1 two-axle trailer with a capstan

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	30	13 flatcars with trunk wood	Netzebrand	Soviet Army
	31	5 flatcars with timber	Netzebrand	Soviet Army
25X1		21 gondola cars with coal; the bill of lading bore the note: [redacted] "Tech Office".	Lauchhammer- West	Unit Kubtsev
25X1		2 tank cars with 241 and 250 hectoliters of fuel	Riesa	[redacted]
25X1		Date in January 1953		
25X1	2	20 gondola cars with coal	Lauchhammer- West	[redacted] Kubtsev
25X1	3	[redacted]	Riesa	[redacted]
25X1	5	1 tank car with 244 hectoliters	Velten	[redacted]
25X1	7	30 boxcars, 20 flatcars and 7 converted boxcars loaded with billeting equipment and 150 men wearing black-bordered blue epaulets	[redacted]	in Brand
	8	35 boxcars, 15 flatcars and 5 converted boxcars with billeting equipment	[redacted]	[redacted] in Brand
	12	25 boxcars and 11 flatcars with military goods	Cottbus	Soviet Army
	13	32 boxcars and 11 flatcars with military goods	Cottbus	Soviet Army
	14	23 boxcars and 17 flatcars	Cottbus	Soviet Army
	15	13 flatcars with timber	Cottbus	Soviet Army
		8 boxcars	Jueterbog- Altes Lager	
25X1		11 boxcars; the cargo was loaded on trucks [redacted]	Cottbus, Soviet Army	
25X1		[redacted] and hauled to Kurzer Damm		

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SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED]

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25X1 On 6 January, a Soviet major [REDACTED] ordered that five trains be made available for Brand. The trains which were made available for Brand on 7 January arrived empty in Finsterwalde on 9 January. The flatcars were shunted to the VXB sawmill, while the boxcars and converted boxcars proceeded to the airfield. According to an engine driver, the trains were to shuttle between Finsterwalde and Brand until the entire unit was transferred. As no vehicles were loaded on the trains, [REDACTED] they went to Brand by road.

25X1 2. The AA gun emplacement in the eastern section of the field on either side of the spur track was occupied by six 37-mm guns in early January. A sentry wearing winter clothes and armed with a submachine gun was posted near each gun. The bunkers of the emplacement were heated.

25X1 3. [REDACTED]
25X1 fuel dump at the field. The section was separated from the western half by a barbed wire fence which had two gaps one for the railroad line and the other one for the vehicular traffic. [REDACTED]
25X1 [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

5. The following observations were made at the field between 19 December and 14 January:

19 December. There was a closed cloud base at an altitude of 500 meters and visibility of less than 1 km. No air activity was performed.

20 December. Between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., individual local flights were made by IL-28s which remained aloft for about 10 minutes. The sky was 5/10 overcast, the ceiling being at an altitude of 800 meters. Visibility was limited to 2 km.

21 and 22 December. There was no air activity in hazy weather. Visibility was under 1 km.

23 December. Between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., individual local flights were made by two IL-28s. There was a 8/10 overcast at a height of 500 meters and a visibility of 1.5 km.

24 and 25 December. No air activity was observed in hazy weather.

23 December 1952 to 6 January 1953. There was no air activity. Usually, the visibility was poor and it snowed occasionally.

13 January. Between 11:15 a.m. and noon, 3 IL-28s practiced local flying, while 3 IL-28 and UH-23 planes, and 1 twin-engine plane were parked at the field. The aircraft remained aloft for about 6 minutes, with their landing gears extended. After the landing, they taxied on the taxiway to the take-off point. Air activity continued until about 3:30 p.m. There was a 8/10 overcast at an altitude of 1,000 meters and a visibility of about 3 km.

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7 to 12 and 14 January. No air activity was observed while the weather was usually hazy. ⁴

6. On 9 January, a German firm complained to the railroad office in Finsterwalde because of the inadequate number of railroad cars which were made available. The office stated that no empty railroad cars were available at present as trains had to be assembled for the transportation of air force personnel to Brand.
7. On 13 January, a tent and five 35-mm AA guns were observed in the AA gun emplacement on the northern edge of the field. Individual soldiers and a sentry were observed there.²
8. On 13 January, source observed that the fence along the eastern section of the field was enlarged as far as the approach lane. It appeared that the spur track to the field was blocked by a gate. The houses along the flying lane were outside the fence.
9. On 12 January, soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets unloaded billeting equipment from three trucks and carried the equipment into houses on the Kurzer Damm road in Finsterwalde. The vehicles were guarded by a sentry who wore black-bordered blue epaulets and was armed with a submachine gun. The houses concerned were unoccupied and unguarded on 11 January. One of the trucks proceeded to the komendatura and another vehicle carried billeting equipment to Kurzer Damm. A truck loaded with upholstered furniture and mirrors was being unloaded at the Thierack villa. On 13 January, construction work was under way on a board fence on either side of Kurzer Damm. The fence had two gates. It was rumored that the komendatura would be moved into the Villa Thierack which was cleaned by 20 municipal workers. The sign-board which was removed from previous komendatura building was not yet fixed at Villa Thierack up to 15 January. The soldiers who were previously quartered in the houses on Schacksdorfer Strasse near the komendatura were transferred to Kurzer Damm. Source could not determine the present location of the workshop which was previously housed in Villa Thierack.⁵

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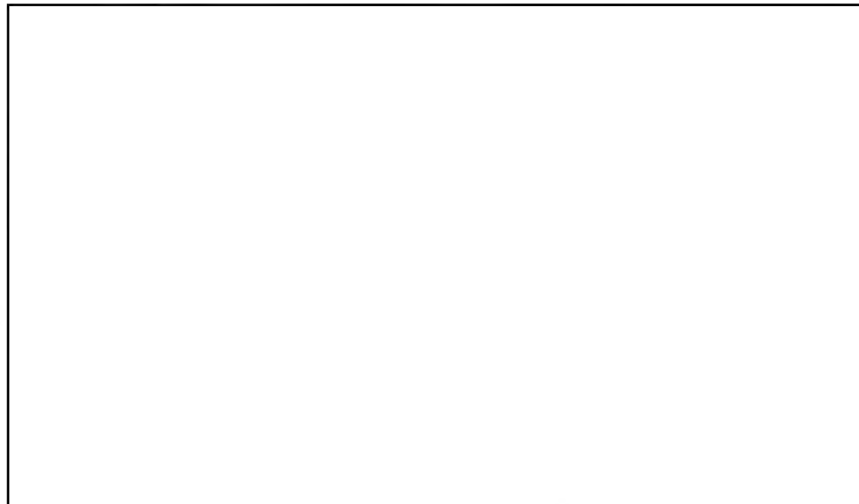
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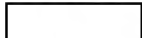
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Radio Truck

25X1



which moved with another radio truck and 3 trucks toward Sonnewalde on 10 January.

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11. On 26 and 27 December, there was fair weather in Finsterwalde and the runway was free of snow and ice. Between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., there was air activity by an Il-28 plane and a twin-engine aircraft. Five additional jet bombers were parked at the field.

12. On 26 December, an AA gun emplacement was observed on the edge of the woods west of the westernmost hangar. The AA guns stood in line, their barrels being covered with tarpaulins. Six AA guns of which the canvas-covered barrels projected beyond the fence were observed on the northern edge of the field. Truck [redacted] the driver of which wore red-bordered black epaulets, moved toward the latter AA gun emplacement. Truck [redacted] probably the supply vehicle of the AAA unit, was repeatedly observed in Finsterwalde.

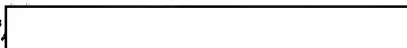
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13. In late December, the western gap in the fence around the field was closed by a board fence 1 to 1.2 meters high. The board fence along the western edge of the field was expanded toward the south east of the forethouse Mehesdorf II. The forester's house was surrounded by a wooden fence. On 26 December, a searchlight was observed north of the east end of the runway.

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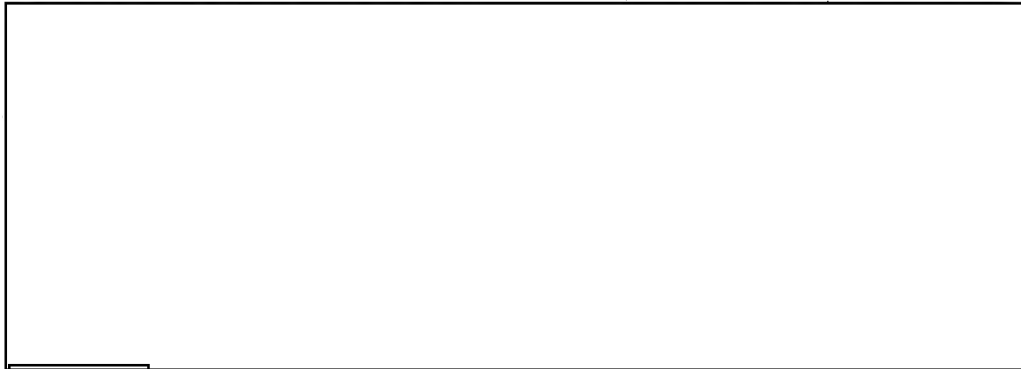
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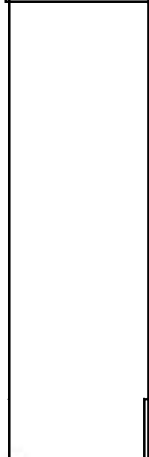
14. On 22 December, a resident from Finsterwalde said that the radio trucks were no longer located in object 5. Object 8 remained vacant up to 29 December. No change was observed in the occupation of object 9 on 29 December.⁵ Between 22 and 29 December, conspicuously many Soviet women in uniform were observed in Finsterwalde.
15. Between 6 and 11 January, railroad cars were loaded at the field. According to a railroad employee, 5 freight cars were loaded and probably left for Brand.

16.

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17. About 11 January, personnel stationed at the field were transferred possibly to Brand. It was rumored that elements of the Soviet airforce unit at Cottbus airfield were to be transferred to Finsterwalde.

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Comment. These statements confirm that transfers were performed in addition to the usual supply shipments to the headquarters of Finsterwalde airfield. The shipments which were observed on 20 December 1952, 12, 13,

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25X1 14, and 15 January 1953 probably carried the Supply Unit [] of
 25X1 the bomber corps of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army from Cottbus to the town of
 25X1 Finsterwalde. []
 25X1 The shipments from Finsterwalde to Brand airfield on 7 and 8 January
 25X1 carried a bomber regiment []
 25X1 [] belongs to the OATB of the bomber
 25X1 regiment stationed in Finsterwalde. [] The
 25X1 consignee's [] on the fuel shipment observed
 25X1 on 31 December cannot be identified.

[] Comment. AA guns which are believed to be emplaced at Finsterwalde
 25X1 airfield include six 85-mm guns both in the northern section and west
 25X1 of the western hangar and six 37-mm guns both in the eastern and south-
 25X1 eastern sections of the field.

[] Comment. The fuel dump is located near the spur track in the
 25X1 southeastern section of the field. It is assumed to have a capacity
 25X1 of about 2,000 cubic meters which has not been confirmed.

[] Comment. It cannot be determined whether the 3 IL-28s and 3 UIL-28s
 25X1 which were observed at the field represent the total aircraft strength of
 25X1 the bomber regiments in Finsterwalde. Clarification is required as to the
 25X1 present location of the Pe-2s of which at least 15 were previously assumed
 25X1 in Finsterwalde.

[] Comment. Some of the buildings in Finsterwalde which were
 25X1 confiscated by the Soviets apparently were newly occupied or changed their
 25X1 occupation. The Object No 8 on Geschwister Scholl Strasse, formerly
 25X1 Kurzer Damm, will probably be occupied by the supply unit from Cottbus.
 25X1 A portion of the building block will probably served as quarters for
 25X1 the komendatura. Villa Thierack, Object 7, will possibly be occupied by
 25X1 the commander. The present location of the workshop previously housed
 25X1 there has not been determined. It is unknown whether Object 9, which
 25X1 previously housed the komendatura, will be reoccupied.

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